

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /069 W  
----- 053318 /10

R 180400Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7472  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2927

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINR UR LA  
SUBJECT: SOVIET AMBASSADOR LEAVES LAOS

1. SOVIET AMBASSADOR VALENTIN PETROVICH VDOVIN  
LEFT VIENTIANE FOR GOOD DECEMBER 15 AFTER FOUR YEARS  
AS AMBASSADOR IN LAOS, WHERE HE PRESENTED HIS LETTERS  
OF CREDENCE NOVEMBER 4, 1972.

2. VDOVIN, WHO SPELLED HIM NAME "VDOVINE" HERE, HAD  
PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS THE FIRST SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO  
CHAD IN 1965 TO 1969 AND IN PARIS FROM 1959 TO 1965.  
HE WAS DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIA COUNTRIES  
DIVISION OF THE SOVIET MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
FROM 1970 TO 1972, SECRETARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
UNION OF STUDENTS 1952 TO 1954, MEMBER OF THE SECRE-  
TARIAT OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC YOUTH  
1955 TO 1959, AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE ALL UNION  
COMMITTEE OF YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS 1957 TO 1959. HE  
SPEAKS ENGLISH AND RENCH. HIS WIFE, YALINDA VLADI-  
MIROVNA MARINA, WAS PRESENT IN LAOS ONLY INFREQUENTLY  
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DURING THE PAST SIXTEEN MONTHS.

3. DURING HIS FAREWELL CALL ON ME, VDOVIN DESCRIBED  
HIS TOUR IN LAOS AS VERY INTERESTING BECAUSE IT HAD  
INCLUDED THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE VIENTIANE AND  
COMMUNIST SIDES, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROVISIONAL

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. IN CALLS ON OTHER NON-COMMUNIST DIPLOMATS HE DESCRIBED THE EVENTS OF THE LAST TWO YEARS IN INDOCHINA AS "IRREVERSIBLE".

4. VDOVIN PLAYED A VERY ACTIVIST ROLE ON THE VIENTIANE SCENE DURING THE PAST SIXTEEN MONTHS. HE SPONSORED A NUMBER OF VISITS BY SOVIET CULTURAL GROUPS AND WAS INVOLVED IN A SERIES OF VISITS TO MOSCOW AND OTHER COMMUNIST CAPITALS BY LPDR LEADERS. HE WAS VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE ON LOCAL CEREMONIAL OCCASIONS AND ESPECIALLY AFTER THE INSTALLATION OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC HE WAS VERY MUCH "AT HOME" HERE. LAO OFFICIALS AND THE MEMBERS OF THE EASTERN EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS DEFERRED TO HIM OBSEQUIOUSLY.

5. VDOVIN'S RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY SINCE AUGUST, 1975, WERE GENERALLY CORRECT EXCEPT ON ONE OCCASION ON MARCH 12, 1976, WHEN HE LOST HIS SANCTUARY AFTER SOMEBODY THREW A HAND GRENADE AT HIS EMBASSY AND TRIED TO IMPLY THAT THE AMERICANS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS. IN HIS FAREWELL LETTER TO ME VDOVIN EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE FOR "THE CONTACT BETWEEN US AND OUR TWO MISSIONS ON THE OFFICIAL AS WELL AS THE PERSONAL LEVEL, WHICH REFLECTED THE RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES."

6. VDOVIN WAS LISTED AMONG SOVIET CITIZENS ENGAGED IN CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS IN "KGB, THE SECRET WORK OF SOVIET AGENTS" BY JOHN BARRON, READERS DIGEST PRESS, CONFIDENTIAL

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1974. VDOVIN LEFT VIENTIANE WELL SATISFIED WITH HIS TOUR HERE AND WITH GOOD REASON. SOVIET INFLUENCE IN LAOS IS SECOND ONLY TO THAT OF VIETNAM AND AT PRESENT CLEARLY EXCEEDS THAT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

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**TAGS:** PINR, UR, LA, (VDOVIN, VALENTIN PETROVICH)  
**To:** SECSTATE WASHDC BANGKOK PARIS MOSCOW CINCPAC FOR POLAD  
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